Allocation of Coal for power projects in Rajasthan

†620. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for lesser allocation of coal for the power projects of Rajasthan inspite of the fact that these projects are generating power at 80—85 per cent PLF (Plant Load Factor); and

(b) The steps being taken to pursue the Railway Board for transportation of coal after its allocation for the power projects of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The coal allocation to the power plants of Rajasthan for the year 2004-05 is 13.095 million tonnes against the requirement of 11.510 million tonnes indicated by Central Electricity Authority.

(b) The coal movement is considered by an Inter-ministerial Standing Linkage Committee on Quarterly basis where the representative of Railways is also present and concurs to movement of coal by rail.

Illegal mining in Burdwan

621. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labours who lost their lives in Burdwan district of West Bengal while engaged in illegal mining of coal there in January last;

(b) whether any inquiry has been held into the incident; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) No report of death of any labourer engaged in illegal mining of coal in Burdwan District of West Bengal in January 2005 has been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Following a news item which appeared in 'Dainik Jagaran' on 28.01.2005 regarding illegal mining in Burdwan District, the District Authorities along with officials of ECL conducted site inspections on 28.1.2005 and 29.1.2005. The illegal mining operation was done by the miscreants in forest land beyond the mine boundary of Parasia open cast project of Kunustoria Area of ECL. After detailed inspection of the site it was decided to engage a rescue team. The rescue team had gone down two pits which were illegally mined and which appeared to be active at the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

time of alleged incident with apprehension that some illegal miners might have been trapped. However, no illegal miner was found by the rescue team. Subsequently, dozer was engaged for dosing and filling off pits in the said forest land as per the advice of District Magistrate, Burdwan and all the pits were dozed and filled up.

Night viewing of Taj Mahal

622. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that night viewing of Taj Mahal in moonlight has been made expensive @ Rs. 720/- person above fifteen years of age and Rs. 700/- for children between 3—15 years for Indian citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the enhanced entry fee is not considered beyond the reach of a common man with average income; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to make night viewing of Taj Mahal within the reach of a common man?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The rate of entry fee for night viewing of Taj Mahal is as follows:—

Indian	—	Rs. 510/- per head
Others	—	Rs. 750/- per head
Children	—	Rs. 500/- per head
(from 03	—	15 years)

(c) and (d) The enhanced entry fee has been prescribed to limit the number of visitors as the Supreme Court has permitted only 400 visitors per night for 5 nights in a month — on the full moon night, two days prior to and two days after the full moon.

National Culture Fund

623. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Culture Fund set up in 1990 is in existence on papers only;

(b) if so, the work, the NCF has done since 1990 till date;

(c) whether Government propose to revamp the NCF;